WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An audio playback apparatus comprising:

sound source in which a plurality of music files are recorded in a hierarchical manner;

playback unit specification means for specifying a unit of a music file group in which said plurality of music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced in a batch;

music file group selection means for randomly selecting said music file group in the unit specified by said playback unit specification means; and

playback means for reproducing all music files included in said music file group selected by said music file group selection means.

2. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sound source records a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner and said playback unit specification means specifies any one of said music file, said album, and said folder as the unit of said music file group.

3. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

if said folder is specified by said playback unit specification means, album selection means for randomly selecting said album from said music file group selected by said music file group selection means;

wherein said playback means reproduces music files for each selected album.

4. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

selected area specification means for specifying an selected area of said music file group.

5. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said sound source records a folder, an album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in said album in a hierarchical manner and said selected area specification means is capable of specifying any one of said album, said folder, and all areas of said sound source.

6. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said playback means sequentially reproduces music files included in said selected music file group in the order of their recording.

7. The audio playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said playback means randomly reproduces music files included in said selected music file group.

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8. An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source in which, for each album which is a minimum unit in a set of music files, said music files are recorded;

album selection means for randomly selecting said album to be reproduced from said sound source; and

playback means for reproducing said music files from said sound source in unit of said album.

9. An audio playback apparatus comprising:

a sound source in which, for each folder storing an album which is a minimum unit in a set of music files, said music files are recorded;

folder selection means for randomly selecting said folder to be reproduced from said sound source; and

playback means for reproducing music files in unit of said folder from said sound source.

10. An audio playback method comprising the steps of:

specifying, in a sound source in which a plurality of music files are recorded in a hierarchical manner, a unit of a music file group in which said plurality of music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced in a batch;

randomly selecting said music file group in the
unit specified by said playback unit specification step;
and

reproducing all music files included in said music
file group selected by said music file group selection
step.

11. The audio playback method according to claim
10, further comprising the step of:

specifying an selected area of said music file
group.

12. The audio playback method according to claim
10, wherein said playback step randomly reproduces said
music files included in said selected music file group.

13. The audio playback method according to claim
10, further comprising the step of:

if, from said sound source recording a folder, an
album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in
said album in a hierarchical manner, said folder is
specified in said playback unit specification step,
randomly selecting said album from said music file group
selected by said music file group selection step;

wherein said playback step reproduces music files
for each selected album.

14. A program for causing a computer to execute
the functions of:

specifying, in a sound source in which a plurality
of music files are recorded in a hierarchical manner, a
unit of a music file group in which said plurality of
music files recorded in said sound source are reproduced
in a batch;

randomly selecting said music file group in the
unit specified by said playback unit specification
function; and

reproducing all music files included in said music
file group selected by said music file group selection
function.

15. The program according to claim 14, further
comprising the function of:

specifying an selected area of said music file
group.

16. The program according to claim 14, further
comprising the function of:

if, from said sound source recording a folder, an
album formed in said folder, and a music file formed in
said album in a hierarchical manner, said folder is
specified by said playback unit specification function,

randomly selecting said album from said music file group

selected by said music file group selection function;

   wherein said playback function reproduces music

files for each selected album.